

“Students today make meaning through combinations of image, sound, motion, story, and interactive virtual media, and they deserve certified teachers, standards-based instruction, and data that reflect the arts in their entirety and across our multimedia society. The Arts Education for All Act strengthens the state and local systems that make that possible. NAMAEE is proud to support it and to help ensure that every arts discipline, including media arts, is counted and served,” **said Dain Olsen, President & CEO, National Association for Media Arts Education (NAMAEE).**

“Every student deserves the chance to imagine, create, and see the world in new ways, yet access to high-quality art education still depends too much on a child's zip code,” **said Laura L. Lott, Executive Director of the National Art Education Association.** “The Arts Education for All Act recognizes that the arts are essential to a well-rounded education, from early childhood through high school and beyond. By building the arts into state and local plans, investing in the educators who teach them, and restoring national data on what students know and can do in the arts, this bill helps close the gaps we know exist. NAEA thanks Senator Luján for his leadership and urges Congress to act.”

“The Arts Education for All Act answers the need for a comprehensive approach to bringing arts education to early childhood programs, low-income K12 students and systems-involved youth. The arts have been proven to improve learning. As access to the arts remains too-frequently an un-met need for children, youth and young adults, Senator Lujan’s leadership on this bill is critical,” **said Eddie Torres, President and CEO of Grantmakers in the Arts.**

“STEM is a career driver, especially in New Mexico and the addition of the Arts enhances the creativity of our communities,” **said Flo Trujillo, President, Northwest New Mexico Arts Council.**

“Every student deserves the opportunity to experience music and the arts as part of a well-rounded education,” **said NAFME President Cecil Adderley.** “The Arts Education for All Act recognizes that high-quality arts education should be universal, and that we must invest in the field to make these life-changing experiences a reality. The bill also reflects a shared commitment to equity in the classroom. NAFME is proud to support this legislation and deeply grateful to Senator Luján working to strengthen our educators and expand arts education opportunities in communities nationwide.”

“A truly well-rounded education is impossible without the arts. When we invest in arts education, we do more than teach students how to paint, act, or play an instrument; we equip them with the critical thinking, empathy, and creative problem-solving skills needed for today's workforce. Every student, regardless of their background or zip code, deserves to experience the arts, and this bill provides a critical step towards ensuring every child has that opportunity,” **said Erin Harkey, CEO of Americans for the Arts.**

“Rest assured Creative New Mexico will enthusiastically support Senator Lujan’s Senate Companion of the Arts Education for All Act. We believe the inclusion of Art into early

education can be a difference maker for the youth in New Mexico and help us climb the ladder to a better education system,” **said Jim Patterson, President Board Member of Creative Santa Fe, Creator/Board Member of Theater Santa Fe, and Publisher of “smARTbook,” a Chicago Arts Guide.**